

## Report

# The International Medical Society of Paraplegia

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The Annual General Meeting of the Society (IMSOP) was held in the Grand Hotel, Oslo, Norway, on 27th June 1986, with the President, Professor Alain Rossier in the Chair.

The President thanked Dr P. Dollfus, France, on the completion of two terms as Vice-President, and expressed his personal gratitude and that of the Council and Members for all that he has done for the Society. He was appointed first Chairman of the Scientific Committee. Dr T. Ikata (Japan) was elected Vice-President along with Dr A. Key (South Africa) who would serve for one further year, and Dr C. Wilmot (U.S.A.) for 2 further years.

The President thanked the retiring Council Members for their invaluable work for the Society: Dr B. Eskesen, Dr M. H. Hanma, Dr H. J. Hachen, Dr G. Karantonis and Dr P. Minaire. The following were elected Members of the Council: Dr D. Amara, Algeria; Dr E. Bernard, France; Mr P. Edmond, Great Britain; Dr H. Medersbacher, Austria, Dr L. Sullivan, Sweden; Dr C. H. Tator, Canada; and Dr F. W. Meinecke (F.D.R.) agreed to stay for one further year as a Council Member.

Mr B. Gardner was appointed Assistant Secretary/Treasurer and the present Treasurer, Mr Isaac Nuseibeh's term of office was extended to the Spring of 1987 to assist him. Mr D. Clay was appointed Business Manager to the Society.

The President was delighted to report that the Society Medal was awarded to Dr Harry R. Hahn, U.S.A.

Thanks to the great support of Dr G. Zach and the Swiss Fund, IMSOP had been able to create two Fellowships, implemented for 1986 for Dr Amara, Algeria, and Dr Okonkwo, Nigeria, as well as to subsidise individual memberships of IMSOP, supply *Paraplegia* without subscription to certain individuals and institutions, and had made it possible for six physicians to attend the Oslo Meeting of the Society.

The President reported the possible formation of a Nordic Paraplegic Society; there was already a German-speaking Paraplegic Society whose Chairman was Professor V. Paeslack. The formation of National Corresponding Secretaries was proving to be most effective, with the U.S.A. and Japan increasing their memberships to IMSOP. Dr Forner is the Spanish Corresponding Secretary. An Italian Medical Paraplegic Society has now been formed, with Professor Dalle Ore as President, and Professor S. Giacobini as Italian National Corresponding Secretary.

The total membership now stood at 806, with 55 new members. Finance, Membership and Scientific Committees had now been established.

The President proposed the venues of Scientific Meetings as follows:

1987 Stoke Mandeville, England, 13-15 May.

1988 Perth, Western Australia, 8-14 May.

- 1989 Rome, May.
- 1990 North America (possibly in conjunction with ASIA and APS).
- 1991 Stoke Mandeville.
- 1992 Spain.

In addition, there will be a Regional Meeting in Seoul, Korea in 1988, and the German Speaking Paraplegic Society with IMSOP in Hamburg in November 1987.

It was announced with deep regret that Mr J. B. Kyle, U.K., had died. He was a senior member of IMSOP, and had been instrumental in setting up the Spinal Unit in Hexham General Hospital.

The Council has decided that a Certificate of Membership will be given, free of charge, to present and future members of the Society.

The accounts were presented by Mr B. Anson, Accountant to the Society. The financial situation was sound, and it was recommended that there should be no change in the annual subscription. The Council agreed that Mr B. Anson should be appointed as the Financial Adviser to the Society.

The Editor, Mr Phillip Harris, thanked the Editorial Board, Mrs Ann Muir, M.A., the Editorial Secretary, the Referees and the Book Reviewers for all their most invaluable help, and for the very close important co-operation with the publishers, Churchill Livingstone, and in particular Mrs Sally Morris and her staff in that firm. He said that Mr J. Cosbie Ross would very kindly continue as Senior Assistant Editor for a further year, and welcomed Dr J. Trevor Hughes (Oxford, U.K.) as Assistant Editor; also Professor G. Fink (U.K.) and Miss Ida Bromley (U.K.) had agreed to join the Editorial Board. Regional issues of *Paraplegia* were scheduled, edited in 1987 by Dr D. Apple, U.S.A.; in 1988 by Dr D. Brown, Australia; and in 1989 by Dr T. Ikata, Japan; under the supervision and with the agreement of the Editor. Mr Harris announced that there will be a special Silver Jubilee (25 years) issue of *Paraplegia* for 1987, which would include editorials, profiles and short articles on 'The State of the Art' in all aspects pertaining to the spine. A *Paraplegia* Prize will be awarded every second year for the best submission of a paper from a doctor, under the age of 35 years, under the combined auspices of IMSOP and Churchill Livingstone.

Mr B. Gardner, FRCS, was appointed Information Co-ordinator, who would liaise with appropriate key Members of the Society in various countries in seeking information concerning the scientific activities in these countries regarding the spine and spinal cord.

Dr P. Dollfus reported that the Scientific Committee will produce a booklet or guide for the organisation and management of future meetings of IMSOP. The 1987 IMSOP Meeting in Stoke Mandeville, England, will be held from 13th to 15th May, 1987, with an Educational Session on 'Sexual Function' on 16th May 1987. The subjects for the Stoke Mandeville Meeting are:

1. Economic implications of longevity in spinal injury patients.
2. The autonomic nervous system and neuropharmacology.
3. Non-traumatic paraplegia including paraplegia due to secondary carcinoma.
4. Internal medical problems in paraplegia.

The probable subjects for the IMSOP Meeting in Perth, Western Australia, from 8th to 14th May 1988, are:

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1. Methods of assessing neurological evolution after spinal cord injury, including documentation and controversial issues.
2. Problems and patterns of staffing and care, both in hospital and during extended care, including bowel and urological evaluations.
3. Preventitive methods in general with particular reference to early nursing care.
4. The locked-in syndrome.

Sir George Bedbrook reported that concessional fares were being arranged and he hoped that members would make every effort to attend.